

1999 Hall of Fame Inductee

John M. May

"Proff May," as he was known in the River Falls, Wisconsin area, was born in Nebraska. However, his family moved to Manhattan, Kansas, when he was two years old. Along with his brother and sister, he was raised on the family farm, went to Kansas State for his B.S. Degree and Cornell University for his M.S. Degree. He did additional graduate work at the Ohio State University.

John May joined the staff of River Falls State Normal School in 1913, one year after the agriculture program was established. During his 40 years as director of the division of agriculture, he was responsible for training 950 students in the field of vocational agriculture. He was widely known in agriculture circles throughout the Midwest.

Although he retired in 1958 as director of his division, he continued to teach agriculture courses at the then Wisconsin State College at River Falls. He passed away in April of 1959 leaving his wife, Mabel: two sons, Don and Jim and five grandchildren. In 1965, his grandson, Don, was an undergraduate student at UW River Falls when May Hall, a student dormitory, was dedicated in his grandfather's honor.